

The Kisselgraph

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c/o Wisconsin Automotive Museum

147 N. Rural Street

Hartford, WI 53027

Telephone: (262) 673-7999

E-mail: info@wisconsinautomuseum.com

Seasons Greetings:

Hopefully this Short newsletter gets to you prior to the end of the season, just wanted to make sure That everyone out there knew we were still up and alive and taking nourishment. We would like to plead that you continue to provide correct information for your address, location, car sale numbers, etc., etc., etc., Its quite important that we keep tabs on where all the Kissel cars are, as they do change hands and lately they have been changing hands at a more rapid pace. So please again keep us notified on your address changing and any purchases or sales of Kissels.

Australia Visits:

Some of you probably have met John Lewis before he's in Australia and is an owner of a Kissel Speedster. He also wrote the booklet "A Brief History of the Kissel Cars in Australia." These books are still available for postage, I have several copies here and I know that John can make more of them. John will be visiting around the country, I don't know his complete itinerary, but He will be stopping here at Wisconsin Automotive Museum during the month of December; evidently he would like to pick through our files as many of you have had the opportunity to do,

previously. It's always great when someone pays a visit here at the museum. We enjoy it and I think whoever does come, gleans much more information on Kissel.

Ruger Car:

As some of you are aware Bill Ruger of the Ruger Gun Company for many, many years owned a Kissel Speedster. During the time that he owned it, he kept pretty quiet about the subject, after he passed, the car sold to a man named Kissel, and he made some of the headline news on TV, with some issues that weren't exactly legal, in any event he past away in a violent manner. The car then went up for auction. I dealt with the Attorney in the estate and suggested that they run it perhaps through "Cruise," because the timing was about right, and ultimately Ron Housman over in Michigan purchased the car. It's an extremely nice car and extremely good condition. Ron's had it to several shows and has taken first of, many, many times. So we're glad to finally see the Ruger Car being out and being shown.

Tom Harrington's Cars:

Tom has just re-restored a Speedster that he had purchased a couple years ago and is restoring a big Sedan (all are Kissel's of course). Tom is certainly adding to

the collection of restored vehicles and we do appreciate anyone that continues to keep Kissels on the road and in view of the public. After all the more that they are seen more of the value the car goes up, which should be more in the interest of any owner.

The Rosenberger Story:

Sixty years ago a young man, Robert Feind, was in love and wanted to give his girlfriend an engagement ring. The only problem was how to pay for the ring. He had a 1909 Kissel Kar. His friend, Tom Rosenberger, was a fellow antique car collector, so he asked Tom if he would buy the Kissel. Tom agreed and Ginny Feind got an engagement ring.

Nine years later Tom was in the process of restoring the Kissel. He was painting the frame, when he met me. I was a reporter for the Milwaukee Journal, writing a story on a tour of homes. His parents' home was on the tour and his cars were displayed. I thought a story about antique car collectors would be interesting for our readers, so Tom and several others were interviewed for the story.

Tom and I started dating and a year and a half later we married. I said I didn't like diamond rings, so I didn't get a ring, but we had the Kissel. The Kissel has been like one of the family through the years. We took it to car shows, but tired of sitting at shows. We began going to car tours. The Kissel is a well-traveled car. It has been to Cape Cod, Canada, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Indiana. We took it on a Glidden Tour in 1959 from Indianapolis to Detroit.

While on a tour in Canada we met a Canadian collector of brass cars. He mentioned that his Canadian Horseless-Carriage Club chapter was going to be touring in Rhode Island the next summer with the Northern New Jersey chapter. Our son was in school at the University of Rhode Island so we asked to be invited. When two people from Wisconsin showed up in Rhode Island with a Kissel Kar, the other car collectors were amazed. One daughter-in-law was nine months pregnant with our first grandchild. She spent a day touring with us. For the rest of the tour, everyone kept asking if the baby had arrived. Unfortunately, Andrew didn't come until two weeks later. This started a long association with Canadian and New Jersey group.

When Tom restored the car, he didn't have to work on the mechanical elements, only the body, as the car had very few miles on it, while on a tour in upstate New York, we had trouble with the transmission. When he opened it to look Tom said that was the first time the transmission had been looked at from the day it was installed. On another tour one of the leather straps for the top broke. It was only 90 years old! Luckily we were in Amish area and they very quickly replaced the straps.

One summer we toured with two Canadian friends. Drove 1000 miles unescorted with no trouble. The Kissel is like one of the family. When Andrew was about 4 year old, Tom and I sponsored a Wisconsin tour for the Canada and New Jersey chapters. We took the cars to the EAA Fly-in in Oshkosh. When Andy, our son, took Andrew to the restroom, Andrew told my sister-in-law, to "watch my car!"

The last tour we took with the Kissel was in Ontario in 2003, the summer before Tom died. This summer we are planning to return for a tour in Ontario. Andy, his two sons, Andrew, now 15 and Paul, 5 and I will be driving in our beloved Kissel on the northern shore of Lake Ontario with many good friends. There are things that are better than a ring.

P.S. Bob Feind did give up his Kissel, for a ring, but not too many years later he and another collector, Dave Uihlein found a 1912 Kissel in Green Bay and brought it home. That car, now belonging to Bob's son, Bob, is on display at the Wisconsin Auto Museum, in Hartford, WI.

Hall of Fame:

The Wisconsin Automotive Museum has just been designated as the Southeastern Wisconsin Short Track Hall of Fame, as such we have several dirt track racing cars on display, along with tons and tons of memorabilia. The opening event and induction in to the Hall of Fame took place November 3rd where twenty people were inducted in to it. There were more than 400 people in attendance for this event. This will be a regular yearly event; they were very pleased to have this separate collection. With a museum you normally have to have the things in it that people like to see, and this is another segment of the car-collecting hobby, which will be visiting us on a regular basis.

Grant Money:

As I have indicated in previous newsletter we did receive another \$250,000 grant to continue with phase two of the modernization in upgrading of equipment for Wisconsin Automotive Museum. We're getting close to our

match, which is \$60,000 we're getting closer and closer, but any help you may wish provide to us for this museum project, would be genuinely appreciated. Also as you all know there is no dues structure for the Kissel Kar Klub, and donations can also be made directly to the Kissel Kar Klub for those activities.

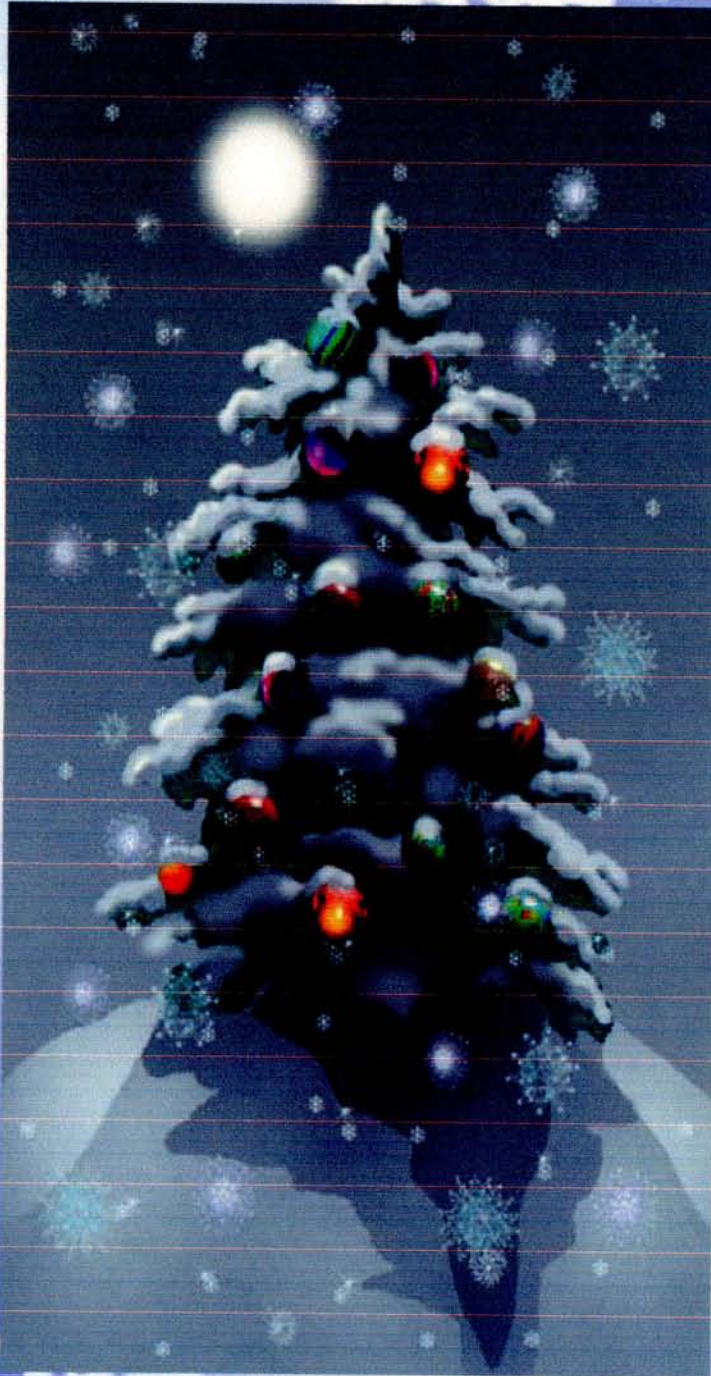
Here is a List of Kissel That Are Presently on Display at Our Museum:

Yr	Model	Owners Name
1930,	8-95, White Eagle,	J & J Kissel
1930,	- White Eagle,	Museum
1929,	White Eagle,	D.& S Kissel
1925,	6-55 Encl. Sp.	Robert Troller
1917,	6-45 Touring	McNeely
1921,	6-45 Spster	Museum
1927,	Eight	Museum
1925,	Encl. Spster	D. & S. Kissel
1928,	8-90	Museum
1925,	8-75	Museum
1927,	Speedster	Mark Kissel
1928,	8 Coup	Mark Kissel
1920,	6-45 Spster	Tom Harrington
1923,	6-55 4dr Brougham	Museum
1926,	8-75 Brougham	Museum
1925,	8-75 Encl. Spster	Museum
1926,	6-55 Coup Rdstr.	Museum
1923,	6-55 Phaeton	Del Beyer
1923,	6-55 Part Restr'd	Dr Ken Kissell
1923,	Prerestored	Museum
1912,	4-50 Touring	Bob Feind
1923,	4-32 1-1/2 Ton Trk.	Museum
1918,	Truck Utility	R.&V Brummond

May This Season Bring

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**From All Of The Staff
Wisconsin Automotive Museum**